

**RECORD VERSION**

**STATEMENT BY**

**MAJOR GENERAL CARTER F. HAM  
COMMANDER, 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

**BEFORE THE**

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**TRANSITION TEAM TRAINING**

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**MAJOR GENERAL CARTER F. HAM**  
**COMMANDER, 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY**

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Skelton, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to address the Transition Team training mission at Fort Riley, Kansas.

In June of 2006, the US Army, Air Force and Navy consolidated transition team training at Fort Riley, Kansas in order to standardize training and maximize resources. Through December 2006, 55 transition teams (500 personnel) have trained and deployed to theater from Fort Riley. Additionally, 1400 personnel are in training now and preparing to deploy.

Transition Team training prepares teams to advise, teach, and mentor Iraqi and Afghan security forces. Each team trains at Fort Riley for approximately 60 days. We train Soldiers from Active Duty, the Army Reserve, and National Guard as well as Sailors and Airmen. Training consists of individual Soldier skills, cultural training, advisor skills, and collective tasks. Individual tasks such as weapons proficiency, use of communications equipment, and medical tasks prepare the team members. For more complex unit tasks, we incorporate challenging vignettes in order to build cohesive advisory teams.

Throughout the training period, each team member receives over 50 hours of formal classroom language training conducted by Defense Language Institute instructors. We currently train Dari and Iraqi Arabic and exercise these language skills in daily training tasks. We also incorporate cultural awareness as the teams teach and advise their counterparts (tasks accomplished by role players), supervise training, and instruct on military planning.

**Training is modified frequently to meet the constantly changing conditions in theater. Recent changes include updated training of Improvised Explosive Device tactics, the recent introduction of counter-sniper training, and adaptation of tactics, techniques and procedures developed by teams now in country.**

**From October 2006 to September 2007, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division will train approximately 6000 officers and noncommissioned officers. We will train teams of varying sizes and missions, ranging from the standard 11-person Battalion Transition Team to such teams as Garrison Support Units that help Iraqi and Afghan forces establish and operate their own base.**

**Currently, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters and the leadership of two combat brigades are dedicated to training these teams with the most recent experience possible. Approximately 75% of the trainers have combat experience, most of which has occurred in the past two years. Each team undergoing training is coached by a permanent officer and noncommissioned officer team. A select number of transition team personnel in theater will redeploy to Fort Riley and become part of this cadre to ensure the most up-to-date tactics and experience are available. In addition, I have one of my two Assistant Division Commanders in theater, serving as the commanding general of the Iraq Assistance Group and providing a critical link between the Transition Team mission in Iraq and the training at Fort Riley.**

**The training at Fort Riley is vital to our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division are dedicated to fully supporting the combatant commander's mission requirements in both theaters. I look forward to answering your questions and would welcome you or your staff at Fort Riley to see firsthand how we are accomplishing the mission. Thank you.**